

having regard to the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) signed between the US and Iraqi Governments in November 2008,

having regard to its resolutions of 12 July 2007 and of 4 September 2008 including references to Camp Ashraf residents having legal status as Protected Persons under the Fourth Geneva Convention,

having regard to Rule 115 of its Rules of Procedure, A. whereas Camp Ashraf in Northern Iraq was established during the 1980s for members of the Iranian opposition group People's Mujahedin Organisation of Iran (PMOI), 8. whereas in 2003 US forces in Iraq disarmed Camp Ashraf's residents and provided them with protection, having been designated 'protected persons' under the Geneva Conventions, C. whereas the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in a letter dated 15 October 2008 urged the Iraqi Government to protect Ashraf residents from forcible deportation, expulsion or repatriation in violation of the non-refoulement principle, and to refrain from any action that would endanger their life or security, D. whereas after the US/Iraqi Status of Forces Agreement Camp Ashraf has been returned to the control of Iraqi security forces as of 1 January 2009, E. whereas according to recent statements reportedly made by the Iraqi National Security Advisor the authorities intend gradually to make the continued presence of the Camp Ashraf residents 'intolerable' and whereas he reportedly also referred to their expulsion/extradition and/or their forcible displacement inside Iraq, 1. Urges the Iraqi Prime Minister to ensure that no action is taken by the Iraqi authorities which violates the human rights of the Camp Ashraf residents and to clarify the government's intentions towards them; calls on the Iraqi authorities to protect the lives, and the physical and moral integrity of the Camp Ashraf residents and to treat them in accordance with the obligations under the Geneva Conventions, notably not to forcibly displace, deport, expel or repatriate them in violation of the principle of non-refoulement; 2. Respecting the individual wishes of anyone living in Camp Ashraf as regards to their future; considers that those living in Camp Ashraf and other Iranian nationals who currently reside in Iraq having left Iran for political reasons could be at risk of serious human rights violations if they were to be returned involuntarily to Iran, and insists that no person should be returned, either directly or via a third country, to a situation where they would be at risk of torture or other serious human rights abuses; 3. Calls on the Iraqi government to end its blockade of the camp and respect the legal status of the Camp Ashraf residents as 'protected persons' under the Geneva Conventions, and to refrain from any action that would endanger their life or security, namely full access to food, water, medical care and supplies, fuel, family members and international humanitarian organizations; 4. Calls on the Council, the Commission and the Member States together with the Iraqi and US Governments and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee for the Red Cross to work towards finding a satisfactory long-term legal status for Camp Ashraf residents; 5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Governments and Parliaments of the Member States, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Committee for the Red Cross, the Government of the United States and the Governments and Parliaments of Iraq.

## TRIBUTE TO ALBERT HABHAB

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the storied career and public service of Albert Habhab from Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Albert began his career of public service as a soldier during World War II. Albert rarely speaks of his time at war, but he occasionally shares some of his experiences including rescuing a badly injured soldier while in the Army in Europe.

He later became the mayor of Fort Dodge in 1959, and served for a record setting 14 years. While mayor, the city expanded by over eleven miles. In 1975, after serving as mayor, Albert was appointed to the bench in the 2nd Judicial District. In 1987 he was appointed to the Iowa Court of Appeals where he was elected chief judge.

Now at the age of 83, Albert continues to show his selflessness and gives credit to many other people in his life who he believes helped him during his career.

I commend Albert Habhab for his many years of loyalty and service to our great nation and his community. I know my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in thanking Albert Habhab for his life of public service. It is an immense honor to represent Albert in Congress, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, May 13, 2009, I was unable to cast my votes on H. Res. 427, H. Con. Res. 84 and H.R. 2162.

Had I been present for Rollcall No. 246, on agreeing to the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2187, the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for Rollcall No. 247, on suspending the Rules and passing H. Con. Res. 84, Supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for Rollcall No. 248, on suspending the Rules and passing H.R. 2162, the Herbert A. Littleton Postal Station, I would have voted "aye."

## HONORING HENRY "HANK" NORDHOFF ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM GEN-PROBE

### HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the service of Henry "Hank" Nordhoff to both the biotechnology and life sciences communities of San Diego, as well as to Gen-

Probe, from which he is retiring after serving fifteen years as President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Hank is nearly peerless when it comes to the contributions he has made to the life sciences community of San Diego and I wish him well in his retirement.

The state of California is far and away the leader when it comes to the life sciences industry. With over 2,000 companies employing 271,000 people and generating \$20.3 billion in salaries and wages, California is the gold standard for science and biotechnology that the rest of the country tries to emulate. San Diego is the crown jewel in the California crown with 36,600 employees in the life science community in San Diego County at more than 500 companies, including traditional biotech, medical device, diagnostic and technology companies. Atop that mountain stands Gen-Probe, led by Mr. Hank Nordhoff.

Hank joined Gen-Probe Incorporated in July 1994 as president and CEO. Following the spin-off from Chugai Pharmaceuticals in September 2002, he was also appointed chairman of Gen-Probe's board of directors. Hank contributed greatly to the innovation that defines Gen-Probe, and that is embodied in more than 480 patents the company has been issued around the world. Gen-Probe's business is devoted to nucleic acid testing (NAT). NAT is the science of identifying diseases accurately and rapidly by detecting genetic fingerprints that are unique to an infectious microorganism or a cancerous tumor. Gen-Probe's pioneering and innovative role in NAT has been broadly recognized—culminating in the company receiving the 2004 National Medal of Technology, America's highest honor for technological innovation, for developing molecular tests that protect America's supply of donated blood from HIV, hepatitis and West Nile virus.

On a personal note, I have had the privilege of working closely with Hank on a number of life sciences issues since coming back to Congress in June 2006. Hank has been a trusted advisor as part of my science and technology advisory group and I have come to rely on his wise counsel on everything from patent reform to personalized medicine. It is no surprise to me to know that he has been named as one of San Diego's most admired CEOs. Hank is a true visionary and his work will continue to shape the landscape of San Diego's biotechnology community long into the future.

In short, Hank is a successful business executive, employer, statesman and philanthropist, and I wish him well in his future retirement endeavors.

## TRIBUTE TO SCOTT BLACKSTOCK

### HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Scott Blackstock, one of my constituents from Thomaston, Ga. This has been a fine spring for Scott. First, he won the Small Business Administration's Georgia Small Business Person of the Year award based on the success of his chain of car washes. Second, there was a lot of pollen. Only car wash owners, I'd think, anxiously anticipate the season when a thick yellow film coats our vehicles.